

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SINGAP 02811 230656Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EA-10 ISO-00 CTME-00 TRSE-00 L-03
MCE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-12 AID-05 EB-08 /055 W
-----026351 231010Z /14
R 230545Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0566
INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 2811

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MILI, SN, CI
SUBJECT: IMPOUNDMENT BY U.S. CUSTOMS OF INTRANSIT MORTAR

REF: STATE 154590

1. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, STORY OF SINGAPORE-TO-CHILE MORTAR SHIPMENT THAT HAS BEEN IMPOUNDED IN LOS ANGELES BY U.S. CUSTOMS IS AS FOLLOWS: TRANSPORT SERVICES PTE LTD IS SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT-OWNED TRANSPORTATION COMPANY. IN FEBRUARY 1978 COMPANY MADE SMALL SHIPMENT OF SUEZ 60 MM MORTARS BY AIR FREIGHT TO CONSIGNEE IN CHILE. SHIPMENT WAS CONSIDERED TO BE ROUTINE COMMERCIAL TRANSACTION. MORTARS IN QUESTION ARE SURPLUS TO NEEDS OF SINGAPORE ARMED FORCES AND ARE OF THIRD-COUNTRY MANUFACTURE (PROBABLY ISRAELI). SINGAPORE DOES NOT ITSELF MANUFACTURE MORTARS AND THEY ARE NOT OF U.S. ORIGIN SINCE U.S. HAS NOT SOLD MORTARS TO SINGAPORE OR TO OTHER PARTY WHICH IN TURN SOLD THEM TO SINGAPORE. SHIPMENT WAS MADE THROUGH COMMERCIAL FREIGHT FORWARDERS, HERMAN LUDWIG COMPANY, AND WAS DISPATCHED ON JAPAN AIRLINES FLIGHT. TRANSPORT SERVICES PTE LTD DID NOT CONCERN ITSELF UNDULY WITH DOCUMENTATION NECESSARY TO CLEAR SHIPMENT THROUGH TRANSIT POINTS EN ROUTE BECAUSE IT CONSIDERED THIS TO BE RESPONSIBILITY OF CARRIER (JAL) AND FREIGHT FORWARDER. COMPANY WAS GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND,
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SINGAP 02811 230656Z

HOWEVER, THAT SHIPMENT WOULD TRANSIT SAN FRANCISCO EN ROUTE AND THAT APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION FOR TRANSIT HAD BEEN ARRANGED.

FOR UNEXPLAINED REASONS SHIPMENT LANDED IN LOS ANGELES INSTEAD OF SAN FRANCISCO, AND UPON ARRIVAL WAS IMPOUNDED BY U.S. CUSTOMS.

2. GENERAL MANAGER OF TRANSPORT SERVICES PTE LTD APPROACHED

USDAO SINGAPORE IN EARLY MARCH TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE IN DETERMINING WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO SHIPMENT IN LOS ANGELES. USDAO SUBSEQUENTLY SENT CABLE DIRECT TO U.S. CUSTOMS LOS ANGELES REQUESTING INFORMATION ON CASE BUT RECEIVED NO ANSWER EITHER TO INITIAL CABLE OR TO FOLLOW-UP MESSAGE. ON APRIL 3, USDAO SENT CABLE TO DIRECTOR U.S. CUSTOMS WASHINGTON REQUESTING ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING INFORMATION ON CASE. THAT CABLE HAS NOT BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED EITHER. AS BEST WE AWARE, THIS IS WHERE MATTER NOW STANDS.

3. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT THIS IS NOT ONLY RECENT SINGAPORE AIR FREIGHT SHIPMENT THAT HAS INADVERTENTLY RUN AFOUL OF U.S. CUSTOMS. RECENT SINGAPORE SHIPMENT TO A CARIBBEAN ADDRESSEE WAS ROUTED BY CARRIER THROUGH NON-U.S. TRANSIT POINTS; AIRCRAFT STOPPED IN PUERTO RICO, HOWEVER, AND SHIPMENT WAS BRIEFLY IMPOUNDED. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THIS SHIPMENT WAS PERMITTED TO PROCEED WHEN SINGAPORE EMBASSY WASHINGTON PROVIDED ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION.

4. WITH REGARD TO SHIPMENT IMPOUNDED IN LOS ANGELES, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO INTENT WHATEVER ON PART OF SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT TO VIOLATE U.S. REGULATIONS. IF IT WERE POSSIBLE TO DO SO UNDER U.S. LAW, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL GESTURE TO PERMIT SHIPMENT TO CONTINUE ON TO DESTINATION AFTER NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION IS PROVIDED. (SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ESPECIALLY FORTHCOMING IN THIS SAME AREA BY PERMITTING U.S. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SINGAP 02811 230656Z

MILITARY AIRCRAFT CARRYING SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT TO TRANSIT SINGAPORE EN ROUTE TO DIEGO GARCIA WITH MINIMUM OF FORMALITIES.) APPEARS FROM PARA THREE REFTEL, HOWEVER, THAT THIS WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF CITED U.S. LAW PROHIBITING EXPORT LICENSE FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT DESTINED FOR CHILE.

5. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE RECOMMEND THAT SINGAPORE EMBASSY WASHINGTON BE FULLY INFORMED OF SITUATION, POINTING OUT THAT U.S. LAW SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITS EXPORT OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM U.S. TO CHILE, INCLUDING THIRD-COUNTRY EQUIPMENT IN TRANSIT. MODEST APOLOGY FOR FAILURE OF U.S. CUSTOMS TO RESPOND TO REPEATED INQUIRIES OVER SEVERAL MONTHS MIGHT ALSO BE APPROPRIATE. WE WOULD PROPOSE TO SAY ESSENTIALLY SAME THING TO SINGAPOREANS HERE. CONCURRENTLY, SHIPMENT SHOULD BE RELEASED BY U.S. CUSTOMS AND SINGAPOREANS PERMITTED TO ARRANGE FOR ITS REMOVAL FROM U.S. BY AIR FREIGHT TO SINGAPORE OR TO ANY ONE OF INTERMEDIATE POINTS THROUGH WHICH IT PASSED ON WAY TO U.S.
INGRAHAM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SINGAP02811
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780262-0068
Format: TEL
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780625/aaaaavnm.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0974a182-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 154590
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2225343
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IMPOUNDMENT BY U.S. CUSTOMS OF INTRANSIT MORTAR
TAGS: MILI, SN, CI, TRANSPORT SERVICES PTE LTD
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0974a182-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014